

RESSMAKER UNITE

NOW USES BAYONET

Polyglot Army? Yes—of All Shapes, Sizes and Occupations.

"BIG TRANSITIONS" NOTED

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Special Correspondence of The Evening Star

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 6.—Every person who has written ten words about our National Army has commented on its polyglot complexion, its sons of many nations, its children of two hemispheres and other smooth sounding phrases. Its men also have been drawn from all walks of life, some of which are conducive to anything except fighting.

One night a general staff officer was tunnelling the dark trenches in the

Earlier in the evening there had been a brush with the enemy, machine guns still were popping and everybody was straining his eyes out over no man's land hoping for some shadowy form to shoot at. The officer was almost upon a soldier before the latter turned and mildly whispered, "Halt!"

"Keep a watch here and don't let anybody get as close as I am before you halt him," said the officer. "A Hun might have your rifle before you know

By this time the soldier was speechless. The officer started to put him at his ease, now that the man was properly on the alert.

"Where did you come from?" asked the officer.

"The National Army, sir," replied the soldier.

"I know that, but where did you make your home in the United States?" continued the colonel.

"San Francisco, sir," replied the soldier.

"I know that city well. Where did you live?" the officer queried.

and launched into a description of the surroundings of Golden Gate avenue and Kearney street.

"And what was your business there?" asked the native son.

"Ladies dressmaker sir," replied the soldier.

It is a big transition from an adept in gently sticking pins so as not to spoil a fussy lady's fitting to a ferocious charger jabbing a bayonet through a man's body, but it had been made in a few weeks.

Question of Salutes

A large part of a soldier's life is taken up in saluting. He must salute every officer he meets. Usually the officer's susceptibility to salutes varies in inverse geometrical ratio to the length of his commission. A "bawling out" prompt and severe may be expected if he neglects to salute a "shave-tail" Lieutenant, especially if he is in the Medical Corps. They say in the Army that a Medical Corps officer may have his pills, his bandages and his instruments, but he never forgets his "three S's"—swords, spurs and salutes. And so a "three S" officer is called.

for them. However, it often happens that a soldier who can recognize a major a block away has such poor eyesight that he does not see a lieutenant when he passes him on the street.

ally the saluting requirement is not all on one side. If an officer fails to return a soldier's salute the latter has a right to call his attention to the oversight and regulations require that the officer retrace his steps and give the salute.

The meaning soldier, inclined to be absent-minded about saluting, was on guard in front of a regimental headquarters one day. The officer of the day, particularly anxious to have a trim, military appearance, gave him a personal warning.

"Now don't let anybody get past you

The soldier paced back and forth, saluting occasionally. Suddenly he noticed that the colonel had walked past him. He had not saluted.

"Here, here! Wait a minute!" shouted the excited soldier.

The surprised colonel turned around. His thoughts had been on so many other things that he had not noticed the sentry, much less the failure to salute. Nervously the "doughboy" clicked his heels together, brought the rifle to an exact perpendicular in front

his duty by dismissing the amazed colonel with:

"Now you may pass, sir!"

Calling Out the Guard.

One day a high ranking commanding officer was inspecting a division training area. The sharpness of his eyes was a byword in the Army, and the officers at one billeting cantonment were determined to have everything up to the mark, though satisfied his quick vision would find something they had overlooked. He was to be there at 8

On duty that day was a sentry who was reliable, but slow. He was in front of headquarters, while the guard, besting the visitor's rank, waited "at rest" on a nearby bench where they could instantly be galvanized into attention.

"Do you know the general by sight?" asked the officer of the day.

The guard did not. He knew the general only by reputation.

"And there will be a badge with stars on the windshield," explained another officer.

"Yes, sir," said the sentry.

"And the minute you see that automobile stop you give the order, 'Turn out the guard!' Do you understand?" said the officer of the day.

"Yes, sir," said the sentry.

The sentry walked back and forth and waited for 3 o'clock. The clock in the village church showed 3, then 3:30, then 4. At 4, the sentry saw a car as wondering whether he should coax the car into the village or wait until 5 o'clock. In a few seconds the sentry saw a car enter the village.

"Where is the guard?" he asked.

"The guard?" echoed the sentry, who had never before spoken to such a high ranking officer.

"The guard?" he repeated as visions of jam faded before the realities of stars which he glimpsed on the windshield.

yes, sir. You're the officer who was going to be here at 3 o'clock!"

Current Purifies Water.

From the Scientific American.

There has been recently placed on the market an appliance for sterilizing drinking water. It is also said to remove tastes, odor, color and hardness, and electrolysis is employed as the sterilizing agent. The appliance consists of a glass vessel

latter consists of two plates which are wired to the nearest source of lightning current. In operation the jar is filled with water and the current turned on. Depending on the amount of electrolyte salts in the water, a gallon of water can be purified in from ten to thirty minutes, and five gallons can be handled at one filling.